THE EXAMINER.

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THE POLITICAL EXAMINER.

Party is the madness of many for the gain of a few. SWIFT.

No. 186.

NAVAL PUNISHMENTS, CONSIDERED WITH A REFERENCE TO THE POLICY AND DECENCY OF THEIR SEVERITY IN GENERAL.

The subject of Naval as well as Military Punishments is represented by the ministerial writers as one that ought not to be handled. The discussion, they say, must be dangerous; it must excite unpleasant reflections in minds that have no judgment, and may rouse into an action feelings that know not where to stop; in fine, he that writes upon it, and differs from ourselves, deserves the punishment of an incendiary.—Without stopping to shew the bitter satire that is thus passed in the outset upon their own opinions,—opinions, the very examination of which amounts to a provocation of tumult and mutiny,—it is judicious on their parts to avoid a subject which leads them into the grossest contradictions, and which puts them at a loss whether to praise most or abuse most the defenders of their country. This may appear a soleism; but it is very true. The moment you hint that there is any thing wrong in the Navy, they exclaim, "What? Would you dare to insinuate that English sailors are not the best in the world? that our gallant tars are not full of fine spirit and patriotism? that they are not the bravest fellows existing—noble hearts—generous, invincible souls?" You answer, that there is no question of their fine spirit and of their superiority to the French, but that you doubt whether, in every instance, the "gallant tars" are treated as well as they deserve,—whether they are not sometimes punished too much for their offences and their officers too little for ill-using them;—whether, in fact, the cat-o'-nine tails is not as barbarous and unnecessary an instrument on water as it is on land. This observation makes the others forget at once all that they have just been saying, and they reply with fury, "What! Not treated as they deserve! Men of all sorts and descriptions, generally the very lowest of society,—fellows, ignorant and of desperate lives, who must be kept under by main force, lest they should despise subordination and ruin their country!"—Such are the contradictions in which the ministerialists, both in and out of the House of Commons, are involved; when they are compelled to bear testimony to the right spirit of our sailors on the one hand, and yet insist that a degrading punishment is necessary for their good conduct on the other. Those, on the contrary, who have no such manifest inconsistencies to defend, allow the merits of our sailors without denying their low origin; but they are also prepared to maintain, that in *both* points of view, whether their spirit is altogether as noble as these Gentlemen say at one time, or altogether as liable to perversion, as vulgar, and as ignorant, as they say at the next, the corporal punishments, now in use among them, are excessive in point of fact, and worse than useless in their very nature. It is not necessary to repeat the arguments on this head, since all that has been said, and all that has been sanctioned by public feeling, and even by the extorted provisions of Government, on the subject of military flogging, applies with double force to that of naval: for if it has been proved, that it is the nature of all such torture to make bad feelings worse,—to excite revenge instead of repentance, and to debase the sufferer for ever, both in his own esteem and in that of his comrades,—the folly of using it must be equally proportionate to the good or bad spirit of its objects: the good it makes bad; the bad it makes worse: and if it be true, as the Ministerialists assert, that a navy is composed of more vulgar materials than an army, and that sailors have ever been, and still continue to be, a race of men more liable to insubordination and mutiny, it is evident that the greater severity shewn them has been of no service, and that the more they are degraded, the worse they are likely to remain.

Such punishments, which are an abuse in themselves, involve a thousand others, that are the more to be dreaded inasmuch as they are easier of commission than perhaps any one that is known. One state of things, it is true, is more provocative of abuse than another; and nobody will deny, that there are, and ever will be, abuses in a system so heterogeneous in it's composition, so wide in it's sphere of action, and, in a great measure, so uncontrouled in it's immediate government, as that of a navy. But that abuses should be suffered *to exist unnoticed*, and therefore *to increase unchecked*, is a very different matter; and it is here that their maintainers and opposers are at issue.—"Say nothing about them," cry Mr. PERCEVAL and his friends, "lest the people should imagine a thousand things which do not exist. Make no clamour, and they will have no suspicion."—"Say every thing about them," replies the other side, "that the people, accustomed to know what does exist, may have no false ideas about that which does not. Make no mystery, and they will have no *right* to suspect."—It is indeed a ridiculous thing to suppose, since the exposure of Lieut. RICHARDS, Lord WILLIAM FITZROY, Capt. LAKE, and others, that the public must not be aware of the many and great abuses, or at any rate opportunities of abuse, that exist in the navy; and the Government has but two ways before it of putting an end to the continual suspicions that must be arising on this subject,—either to abolish at once the use of torture on board ship, in whatever way inflicted,—or to meet with

eagerness all cases of naval corruption or cruelty that are brought forward in Parliament, and to set its face resolutely against the perpetrators, whatever their rank, influence, or connexions.

On the former point, a Newspaper had better delay its remarks till Mr. Brougham has entered on his promised motion in the ensuing Session, when cases may be published with better confidence, as enabled to challenge immediate proof in an Assembly where proof may yet be brought forward, and not be beaten down as libel. I shall, therefore, say nothing at present of the various enormities which have been communicated to this Paper, and which, though publicly unknown in the metropolis, have been no secret to those whose profession or local situation have made them acquainted with ships and seamen. The public may be certain, however, that they will be informed of them in due time:—what little assistance the *Examiner* can lend to their diffusion, will be afforded with zeal proportionate to it's sense of duty, and to it's common feelings of humanity; and national opinion, which has long slumbered upon these abuses, will at last, it is trusted, be roused to their consideration, and shame them from among Englishmen.

On the latter point, not to mention the general duties which the guardians of a State owe to the investigation of every species of abuse, and not to dwell on the high importance of giving every possible solidity and confidence to our means of resisting the enemy, it may be observed, that these duties are owing in a more than ordinary degree to matters that concern the seaman; for, in the first place, his service, generally speaking, is *compulsory*; and, in the second, his officers have *greater opportunities of abusing their power* than any other persons in authority. A soldier enters the army freely; he is even bribed into it; and the conduct of his officer towards him is liable to universal inspection; yet even under these circumstances, it is well-known that an officer has a thousand petty opportunities, not the less galling because they are petty, of venting his ill-temper upon his men, and rendering their complaints ineffectual. There are vexations peculiar to all employments; and there are the vexations resulting from military discipline.—But with the seamen, they are most woefully aggravated. Let us suppose one case out of thousands; let us suppose a seaman who against his direct inclination is pressed into the service, and who with a mind nevertheless willing to be moved by kindness, prepares to act as well as the rest of his countrymen in the same condition. The least that can be done for such a man is to shew him the kindness which he has a right to expect, and which it is as politic as it is humane to bestow. I do not mean, of course, indulgences unfit for his situation, nor can it be supposed that he looks for them,—but an equable, well-tempered, and manly treatment, alike becoming the nature of his service and the rank and good sense of his superiors. If his officers are intelligent men, but particularly if the Captain has just views of his profession,—it is most likely that he meets with such treatment; but it unfortunately happens that naval officers, in point of education and knowledge of the world, are inferior, in the aggregate, to military; and the chances are at least two to one, that accustomed as they have been for years past to exercise an entire and almost unnoticed despotism on board ship, the man instantly becomes a slave in every strict sense of the word. Once out of port, he is out of the reach of sympathy, or at least of protection; and if his officers are inclined to oppress him, they have every opportunity and every temptation for so doing, which can be afforded them by want of education, a severe discipline, distance from land, length of time, and the eventual difficulty and danger, not to say impossibility, of a complaint on the part of their men. Facts will not be wanting to prove all this, and more. Indeed, disclosures have not been wanting already to convince the public of their truth; and the universal abhorrence with which they heard the account of Capt. Lake's conduct in a *distant sea*, is an excellent earnest that similar enormities will meet the execration they deserve, and that the grievance, in order to be remedied or diminished, has only to be universally known.

That the present Ministers should lend an unwilling ear to disclosures of this kind, is, in the main, not very surprising, though, as I have already observed, it is not a little so, that they appear to make no distinction in their unwillingness, and are equally irritated by whatever abuse is brought before them. But even this is not the sum of their folly and their disgusting apathy on such occasions: their obstinacy seems to be that of mere, spoiled children who will behave worse purely because they have been reproved for behaving badly; and at the very moment when the national feeling has been roused to the proper subject, and all men must be agreed that it is, at least, no time for committing an outrage upon it, the following paragraph appeared in the Papers of last Wednesday:—

"The Prince Regent has been pleased to direct, by an Order in Council, that Lord William Fitzroy, who had been dismissed from the command of the Macedonian at Lisbon, and *struck off the list of the Royal Navy* by sentence of a Court-Martial, *shall be restored to his former rank* of Post-Captain."

This officer, it will be recollected, was dismissed the service for "tyranny and oppression." Which feeling in the public mind must be the stronger—whether disgust at the Ministers who could calmly recommend such a proceeding, or pity and regret at the Prince Regent who has thus given fresh proof of weakness in agreeing to it,—it is difficult to say. The shame of such measures must turn aside the faces, and sicken the hearts, of all thinking men; but one good may arise from it, for it must render the public feeling more than ever alive to the subject in general.

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

FRANCE.

OFFICIAL NEWS FROM THE ARMIES IN SPAIN.

ARMY OF THE SOUTH.—We read in an intercepted letter, that as soon as Lord Wellington was informed at Albuera of the march of the French army of Portugal, he assembled a Council of War, to deliberate upon the part to be taken. The Spanish Generals were present: they warmly opposed the proposition of the English Generals to abandon Spain and repass the Guadiana. For two months, say they, we have been besieging Badajoz: we have already raised the siege once; the breach is practicable, and in a few days, we shall be masters of the place. The possession of Badajoz is important, because it is one of the strongest places in Spain; the key of the Guadiana, and contains all the bridges and besieging equipage of the French army. The result of the battle we shall fight, will be, if we are conquerors, the immediate fall of this important place. Cadiz has been besieged for a year. The French have constructed there a considerable flotilla; they have more than 400 pieces of large calibre in battery; the besieging works they have erected are immense; the result of the battle will be to deliver Cadiz. The army of Murcia is in motion, and under the walls of Grenada. The result of the battle will permit our junction with that brave army. The French army of Arragon besieges Tarragona; upon the fate of that place depends that of Catalonia, and the kingdom of Valencia. The result of the battle will be felt, undoubtedly, even in those provinces. In fact, victors, we become masters of Estremadura, Andalusia, the kingdoms of Cordova, Jaen, Grenada; we take Badajoz, we deliver Cadiz. The French, obliged to repass the Sierra Morena, will be harassed on all sides, will fear for Madrid, will march the nearest troops, which are those of Arragon, and thus Tarragona, Catalonia, and Valencia, will be delivered. Never were more important consequences attached to the fate of a battle. If, on the contrary, we lose it, shall we not be always in time to repass the Guadiana, place ourselves under the protection of Elvas, or the heights of Portalegre? The cavalry of the army of Portugal not having been yet entirely refitted, the means of conveyance not being yet re-organized, they can undertake nothing before September; and till that time, shall we not be always able to defend the lines of Lisbon, or to maintain ourselves under the cannon of Elvas?—Victors, we shall obtain immense advantages: vanquished, scarcely any inconvenience is attached to our defeat. Our army is as numerous as the French army; they have rather more cavalry than we have, but we have more field-artillery. The bad state of the carriages of the army of Portugal has not permitted them to bring with them more than a small part of their park. The epoch is decisive. Victors, the Peninsula may be delivered; but if, on the contrary, we repass the Guadiana and evacuate Spain, whether it be in consequence of a battle lost, or a simple deliberation of the present Council of War, the result will be the same: Spain abandoned for the third time, will be discouraged; Badajoz will be re-victualled; the army of Murcia will be destroyed and dispersed; Tarragona will be taken; Catalonia reduced to submission; Valencia will follow the fate of Tarragona; and the English armies, after having been useless spectators of the defeat of all our armies, will be useless spectators of the capture of all our fortresses, and consequently, of all our Provinces. These reasons not having been effectual, the English Generals having resolved to repass the Guadiana, the Spaniards separated discontented. On the 30th of June they appeared before the fort of Niebla. Colonel Fritzherz, who commanded there, had three hundred men. Blake established his batteries. On the first of July, he tried an assault. Three successive attacks, directed against the two gates, were repulsed. The ladders of the Spaniards were thrown down, and 300 remained in the ditches of the place. Among the wounded, the Spaniards include General Zayas. Upon the first advice which the French Governor of Seville had of the march of Blake, he took the field. On the 5th of July he took from them three companies at Calanas. On the 5th the enemy embarked, and the division of Seville picked up a great number of stragglers. Upwards of 2,000 of Blake's band deserted to return home. On the 6th, Blake and the Spanish corps sailed for Cadiz.

ARMY OF ARRAGON.—All the predictions of the Spanish people are realised. After the Capture of Tarragona, Marshal Suchet marched upon Berga, and destroyed that fort; from thence he proceeded upon Mont-Serrat. The insurrectional Junta, intimidated by the capture of Tarragona, had embarked for Majorca, leaving the Marquis D'Ayrolas to defend Mont-Serrat, the general depot and central magazines of the insurgents. Marshal Suchet made dispositions to reconnoitre this place, entrenched by art and nature. He arrived at Reuss on the 20th, with the brigade Abbe. On the 24th, the troops were united. The enemy, who had for a moment been alarmed, resumed their security, not thinking we should dare to attack them; but in the night, the Marshal marched upon Bruch. The attack began upon three redoubts placed at the foot of the mountain, and which covered the entrance of the defile; they were in an instant carried by the bayonet, and occupied by our troops. General Abbe received orders to proceed immediately in front of the defile with the 1st regiment of infantry, the 114th of the line, and a company of sappers. The road, long and painful, winds on the flank of a steep mountain; fresh obstacles would have stopped at each step any but French soldiers: intrenchments, redoubts placed on inaccessible rocks, covered the entrance of the convent. Peasants stationed on all the tops of the mountains kept up a terrible fire; the Marquis D'Ayrolas, trusting in the strength of his position, contented himself with ordering that a week's provisions should be carried into the batteries, which he deemed to be impregnable: but General Abbe had already dashed on with two picked companies. The brave men arrived under the rock of the first battery. In spite of the stones and rocks hurled down upon them, they climed the heights; they are already in the embrasures; the enemy lose their confidence; all that could not save themselves were killed in the battery. The cannon were immediately turned against the second battery, against which marched the chief of battalion Errand with a picked battalion. He attacked in front, and at once turned the work, which was carried in a few minutes by the bayonets. The Spanish Officer was killed on his cannon with the cannoniers. A third battery, with a strong entrenchment, yet remained in front of the convent, and presented the greatest obstacles to us to attack in front; but 50 marksmen had climbed, we know not by what audacity, through the clefts of the rock, and had reached the summit of the peaks of the mountain; from thence they plunged into the very interior of the convent and the entrenchments. D'Ayrolas immediately descended with part of his men into the ravines and impenetrable paths, where it was impossible to follow him. Some Officers were taken with the rest of the soldiers; and the convent and thirteen hermitages, were instantly occupied by our brave men.—We took two standards, ten pieces of cannon of large calibre, a million of cartridges, an immense quantity of ammunition, clothes, and provisions.—Deserters from the fort of Figueras have declared, that there are about 1000 sick in the garrison, which is reduced to half-rations.—The English cruisers have disappeared with Campo Verde, and his adherents. The merchants of Valencia are carrying off their most precious effects to Alicant and Majorca.

ARMY OF THE CENTRE.—The town of Cuenca, cleared of the brigands, has been occupied in a military manner, and the province occupied like those of the interior: the greater part of the prisoners desired to enter into our service; those that were dispersed, return successively to their homes: all the Communes are loud against the frightful system of these bands, which know neither friend nor foe; they all desired arms, and the honour of defending themselves; several have already distinguished themselves by the arrest of some leaders too famous for their atrocities.

SPANISH AMERICA.

GENERAL CONGRESS OF VENEZUELA.

Ten months have now expired since the Government of Carracas

has seen its hopes realized, and the most important part of Venezuela has been united under a system of federation consistent with the rights, the liberties, and the wishes of its inhabitants. The Supreme Junta is now about to perform a most solemn act. It is to resign into the hands of the National Cortes the power with which it as been entrusted—and may that august Assembly fulfil the noble expectations entertained of them by the public authorities of the people. Under the propitious auspices of peace and unanimity, the first Cortes witnessed in America has been convened and empowered—and the following are the cities and countries which it is appointed to represent:—Nirgua, Valencia, Villa de Cura, Guanare, Cumana, S. Felipe, San Sebastian, Paria, Ospino, Calabozo, Cumanacoa, Barquisimeto, Barinas, Margarita, S. Carlos, Guadulito, Gritta, Carracas, Achaguas, Guanarito.—On this occasion the assembled Junta, in full costume, waited the arrival of the Deputies of the Congress. As soon as the Members were all convened, the Congress appointed a temporary President, to act until their return from the Church Service, as did also the Junta. These arrangements being made, the President of the Junta directed the persons present to proceed towards the Church. The avenues through which they passed were splendidly decorated, and were lined by a multitude of grateful and admiring people. The Bishop attended within the Church, and four Canons at the Porch administered holy water to the President. In the Church were assembled the Civil and Military Authorities, &c. The holy offices having been performed by the Bishop, the Heralds with a loud voice exclaimed—"Deputies to be sworn:" immediately after which the Chancellor, addressing himself to the Congress, read in an audible manner the following oath:—

"You all swear before God, on the Holy Evangelists, and you promise to your country, to preserve and defend her rights, and those of King Ferdinand VII. without any connection with, or influence by France, and independently of any form of Government adopted in Spain, you acknowledge in no representation but that which exists in the General Congress of Venezuela; you swear to oppose all other authority over these countries, which may contravene its absolute and legitimate independence; to maintain pure and inviolable our sacred religion, and to respect the mystery of the immaculate conception of our Lady the Virgin Mary; to promote directly and indirectly the general interests of the Confederation of which you form a part, and the particular interests of the district by which you are appointed; to obey the Laws and Ordinances which this Congress may sanction and promulgate; to subject yourselves to the interior regulations it may direct, and to fulfil faithfully the duties of the Deputation you are called upon to exercise."

All the Deputies answered, "We swear"—on which the Chancellor returned, "If you swear true, God help you; if not, may he punish you in this life and the next."

In the sequel, similar oaths were taken by all the Public Authorities. The Session was then opened under D. D. Felipe Fermin Paul, President; D. D. Marinno de la Cova, Vice-President; Don Miguel Sernz, Secretary; D Antonio Nicolas Briceno, Vice-Secretary.

IRELAND.

DUBLIN, AUG. 17.—On Sunday, a Meeting of the Catholics of the county was held in the town of Galway. This Meeting was more numerous, and in every point of view more important, than any within the recollection of the oldest inhabitant. Resolutions were unanimously passed vindicating the subject's right to petition—that invaluable privilege in which all are concerned. The Resolutions also express a fixed determination to seek the immediate and total repeal of the Penal Laws affecting our Catholic Countrymen, and for this purpose, Gentlemen were appointed to manage the Petition. The Meeting was attended by all the Protestant Gentry at the Assizes—by the Members of Parliament, and by the High Sheriff, who, with his Officers, headed the Catholics, in number above 6,000, in procession through the town to the Town-hall, where the Resolutions alluded to were read and considered, and passed unanimously.—Amongst the Gentlemen present were the Members of the Grand Jury, the Mayor and Corporation in their Regalia, and many other persons of the first distinction and consequence.—The Catholics of Sligo are to meet next week: and the Catholics of Kerry are also to assemble in a few days.—*(Dublin Evening Post.)*

PROVINCIAL INTELLIGENCE.

Friday week, at seven o'clock in the evening, the prisoners confined in Reading gaol attempted to make their escape. The turnkeys having proceeded to the ward where they were secured in the day, opened the door to remove them one at a time to the close cells for the night, when one came forward and was locked up. They then proceeded for the second; immediately as the door was opened, eight of them rushed out, seized the turnkeys, and fastened them into the close cells adjoining. The keeper's wife ran with a debtor to secure the door which led to the keeper's house, to prevent their approach, but was not in time; they entered it, dragged them both out, and bolted them into a cell. The keeper, who was in the room up stairs, seeing them drag out his wife, immediately descended, fastened the door of the house, ran up stairs into the room he had previously left, and collected his fire arms in the window. The whole of the prisoners were now in a body, trying to force open the door, calling out for the keeper, who answered, "here I am, and will shoot every one of you," and pulled the trigger of one of his pistols at a transport, who, stooping his head, the balls missed him, and they all ran towards their wards with fury, swearing; but again collected themselves to attack him, when he quickly opened the door of his house with his fire-arms, which were very formidable, consisting of three brace of pistols, and a musquet with a fixed bayonet, and drove them into the yard, where they hid themselves. The keeper now released the turnkeys, his wife, and two debtors, and three women. The keeper's wife, immediately after her release, brought four debtors through the house to his assistance, but he had previously rushed into the ward, and presented his fire-arms at them, threatening to shoot the first man who resisted going to his nightly abode; they obeyed, and with the assistance he had now procured, he was enabled to secure every one with extra irons, and fasten them down to the floor of their respective cells.

A few days ago, a tradesman of Leicester observing a Jew with a venerable beard, in a spirit of indiscreet levity, or something worse, invited him into his shop, and cut it off with a pair of scissars. The Jew brought his action for damages; and it would have gone hard with the offender, had not the Jew consented to forego his suit on condition of the defendant's paying 20*l*.

ASSIZES.

SOMERSET,—AUG. 19.—THE KING *v* BETTY TOWNSEND.—The prisoner, an old woman, aged 71, has for a number of years been considered by many, who indulge in superstitious opinion, as a *Witch*. Her appearance, to such persons, would certainly sanction their suspicions, as never was Witchcraft more fully personified. Her *Levee* had a daily, may hourly attendance, by those who chose to pay for a peep into the pages of Futurity; but, in the examination of those pages, she unfortunately passed over that which contained her own destiny. The prosecutor, Jacob Poole, is a poor labouring man, residing in a hamlet of Taunton. Poole was in the habit of sending his daughter, aged about 12 years, with apples to the market. About the 24th of January she met with the prisoner, who stopped her, and asked to see what the child had in her basket, which having examined, the prisoner said to her, "Hast got any money?" The child said, she had none. "Then get some for me," said the old hag, "and bring it to me at the Castle door" (a tavern in Taunton) "or I will kill thee." The girl, frightened to an extreme at such a threat from the Witch, as she believed her to be, procured two shillings, and carried to her; and, upon giving her the money, the prisoner said, "'Tis a good turn thee hast got it, for else I would have made thee die

by inches." The like circumstances took place, with no material variation, seven times in the course of five months. At length a discovery took place. Poole (the father) went to the shop of Mr. Bruford, a druggist, in Taunton, to pay a little bill which he owed for medicine, and on observing seven different charges for "money lent," he inquired to whom, and found that this money had at various times been lent to the girl, who had gone in her father's name, and borrowed the money for the purpose (as she said) of going to market, and carried it to the prisoner, the Witch, as a peace-offering.—Poole's wife, and a woman, named Johnson, went with the girl to the prisoner's, and interrogated her. She admitted her knowledge of the girl; but, on being accused of her conduct, the prisoner swore and raved in the most violent manner, and vowed that, if they dared to accuse her of it, she would make them "die by inches." One cannot have a stronger proof of the impression made on the mind of the girl's mother, and her thorough comprehension of the meaning of this threat, than the prudent step she adopted to destroy the charm.—"No, (said Mrs. Poole) that thee shalt not—I'll hinder that," and taking a pin from her cloaths, she scratched the witch from her elbow to her wrist, in three places, to *draw her blood.*"—This is considered to be a process of unfailing efficacy as an antidote to witchcraft!! The idea of this infamous woman's supernatural power has so haunted the mind of the child, and disturbed her rest day and night, that she is now reduced to such a state of bodily debility, as scarcely to be able to take any sustenance.—The case was satisfactorily proved, and the Jury, without hesitation, found the prisoner guilty. The Judge, after largely commenting on the enormity of the offence, observed that nothing but her extreme old age debarred him from pronouncing on her the most severe sentence which the law could inflict.—She was sentenced to pay 1s. fine, and to be imprisoned in the House of Correction, there to be kept to hard labour for six months.—(*Taunton Courier.*)

SUSSEX.—AUG. 17.—*John Bates Shuckard* was charged with various frauds, effected by the following contrivances:—On the 25th of July he went to the Old Ship, at Brighton, which is kept by a person of the name of Shuckard, and introduced himself as a namesake. He told the landlord that he knew his brothers very well, and that he had lately seen his younger brother, and that he had sent him a letter and a parcel, and was surprised that he had not received any answer in return. The landlord, who is a German, said, that he was very glad to see a namesake, as he never knew of one in England, and treated him hospitably, recommending him to lodge at a neighbour's. A day or two afterwards, at dinner, he related a story of the apprentice boy where he lodged having stolen a watch, and added, as he was a dealer in lace, he had considerable property about him, which he would thank the landlord to take care of. He then produced a 500*l.* and 50*l.* note, and said, "You see here is 550*l.*" These notes he then sealed up in a piece of paper, and delivered them to Shuckard, the landlord. He afterwards went about the town and bought a variety of articles of lace, jewellery, &c. referring to the landlord for his responsibility, who readily answered, he had deposited considerable property with him. This obtained him credit, and he got goods of several tradesmen, with which he decamped. Suspicion arising, the deposited notes were examined, when they turned out to be Fleet Bank Notes for so many pence.—The prisoner was acquitted of the charge of fraud, on a deficiency of evidence, but he was convicted of publishing a note, with the sum expressed in "white letters on a black ground," which, by the Bank Act, is a misdemeanour, subject to six months imprisonment; which sentence he received.

CORNWALL.—FOOTE *v.* BAYLAY.—Mr. Serjeant LENS stated the plaintiff's case. Mr. Foote is a Captain in the navy, and married Mrs. Foote in 1800. In 1809, they came to reside at Saltash; about three weeks after Capt. Foote went to sea, leaving his wife and five children. Some years previously to this, Captain and Mrs. Foote had formed an intimacy with Capt. Baylay, the defendant, who engaged to pay every attention to Capt. Foote's children during his absence. Soon after the sailing of Capt. Foote, it was observed that Capt. Baylay was very attentive to Mrs. Foote; upon which Capt. Cook, a mutual friend of Capt. Foote and Capt. Baylay, informed him that reports were in very general circulation respecting the attention shewn by him (Capt. Baylay) to Mrs. Foote, and requested him, as the friend of both parties, to discontinue these attentions. The defendant upon this declared that his attentions to Mrs. Foote were perfectly innocent; that he had never taken so much liberty as to kiss her, and that his designs were wholly void of criminality. Some months afterwards, Capt. Cook spoke again to Capt. Baylay on the same subject, when Capt. Baylay appeared displeased, and replied rather hastily, "that where he had gone once to Capt. Foote's house, he would now go twice;" Capt. Cook told him he had better not do so.—In this situation things remained until Capt. Foote returned to Saltash in January last, at which time it did not appear that he entertained any suspicions of his wife's conduct, till Mrs. Foote quitted her house on the night of the 20th of February last, and went to that of the defendant, where she continued until next morning. After waiting for the return of his wife to a late hour, Capt. Foote went to the house of Capt. Burkhead, a friend, whom he called from his bed, to assist in searching for her. Not finding any trace of her, they returned home. Early on the following morning, accompanied by Capt. Burkhead, he repaired again to the house of the defendant, and there he found her—the fact of her having passed the night there was also avowed by the defendant. The Jury might conceive the sentiments of the defendant by the following letter written by him to the plaintiff's wife, after she was separated from her husband. Though this letter was without date or name, it would be proved to be the hand-writing of the defendant:—

"MY DEAR, BELOVED SOPHIA!—I am distracted almost to madness, under the pressure of a thousand different reports. If you have any regard for the most solemn promises, if you love me, send, I entreat you on my knees, the most convincing assurances of your unalterable attachment and affection for me. Assure me, my dear beloved, that you never more will live or cohabit with him, and that you are still faithful to me, who am only yours in the most sincere affection, and who lives for you alone. I pray the Almighty God to bless and protect you, and strengthen your love for me, under the severest trials. Heaven bless you my dearest, dear Sophia!—As you love me, write, I beseech you, to your own affectionate Henry. I have been told that you betray me to him; I do not believe it, my dearest love; were you to abuse my affection, I would at the first step publish all your letters.—No! my beloved Sophia, I hope you possess nobler sentiments than to stoop to the man you have injured, and who, in reality, I know you hate and fear, or betray the sincerity of the affection of him who is only and ever your own— "H."

Capt. Burkhead being called, stated, that he recollected being called out of his bed at an unusual hour, by Capt. Foote, who requested him to assist him in searching for Mrs. Foote; he stated that he and Capt. Foote searched all about the waterside for Mrs. Foote, but not finding her, they returned to their houses. Between the hours of eight and nine next morning, Capt. Foote came to the witness's house, accompanied by Capt. Baylay: after apologizing for having disturbed him, Captain Baylay said, that Capt. Foote had come to him that morning to ask him if Mrs. Foote was at his (Captain Baylay's) house, and that he had replied, he did know where she was then. Upon which Captain Foote replied hastily, "You do know." Captain Baylay said, "Go, if you please, to my house;"—upon which both parties earnestly requested the witness to accompany them to the defendant's house; they accordingly both went together, and when in the passage, Capt. Baylay attempted to go up stairs; upon which Capt. Foote said, "you shall not go up;" on this, a servant who was in the passage went up stairs, and they went into the parlour. Shortly after Mrs. Foote came into the parlour, and Capt. Foote addressed her in Capt. Baylay's presence, and said, if she could say she was innocent, he would take her home again. To this witness heard no answer returned, and Capt. Foote repeated the observation; when Mrs. F. said something rather indistinctly,

importing that Capt. Foote wished to leave her in the Isle of Wight. Upon some further remarks being made respecting where Mrs. Foote had spent the night, Captain Baylay said, "he would not tell a falsehood about it; she had been up stairs."—On his cross-examination by Mr. Jekyll, he said he does not know where Mrs. Foote is, except from report. Mrs. Foote appears to be between 30 and 40 years of age, and he supposes the defendant to be three or four and thirty. He does not know how long the plaintiff had been married to Mrs. F.; but knows they have five children.

Capt. Cook was called. He said he had received a letter from the plaintiff, stating that he had taken his wife back again.—Having left the letter at Saltash, it was not received as evidence.

Mr. JEKYLL, on behalf of the defendant, contended that there was no proof of any arts being used to seduce Mrs. Foote, and that, for all they knew, she had of her own unsolicited inclination gone, on the night alluded to, to the house of the defendant. He said there was no proof that the plaintiff had lived with his wife in conjugal affection. He said that there was no proof that Capt. Baylay's circumstances would enable him to pay heavy damages, but appearances spoke the contrary; damages should be given, but the Jury, he was sure, would consider a very moderate sum sufficient.

The Jury, after some deliberation, returned 400*l.* damages.

TUESDAY'S LONDON GAZETTE.

At the Court of Whitehall, the 19th of August, present, his Royal Highness the Prince Regent in Council:—

It is ordered by his Royal Highness the Prince Regent in Council, in the name and on the behalf of his Majesty, that the Parliament which stands prorogued to Thursday, the 22d of this inst. August, be further prorogued to Friday, the 4th day of October next.

BANKRUPTCIES SUPERSEDED.

J. Bonson, Chard, Somersetshire, jobber.
J. Bath, Cirencester, watchmaker.
J. Owen, Hulmes, Manchester, boat-builder.

BANKRUPTS.

G. Alston, Plymouth, builder.
C. Baglehole and J. Redgrave, Mark-lane, merchants.
S. Clarke, Leicester-square, salt-merchant.
T. Gwinnett, Cheltenham, money-scrivener.
W. Hearn, Needham-market, Suffolk, fell-monger.
J. Irlam, Manchester, innkeeper.
T. Kirkpatrick, Gracechurch-street, linen-draper.
T. Mather, Liverpool, timber-merchant.
W. Steel, Liverpool, glass-seller.

SATURDAY'S LONDON GAZETTE.

Downing-street, Aug. 23, 1811.

Dispatches have been received at the Office of the Earl of Liverpool, addressed to his Lordship from General Viscount Wellington, of which the following are Extracts:—

Extract of a Dispatch from General Lord Viscount Wellington, dated Portalegre, July 25, 1811.

The enemy's cavalry left Merida on the morning of the 17th. The enemy have since continued their March upon Almaraz; and on the 20th, one division of infantry had arrived at Placentia. On the same day Marshal Mermont was at Almaraz, and other divisions had marched from Truxillo in the same direction. One division of infantry and some cavalry still remained at Truxillo, according to the last accounts.

There is nothing new in the North. Joseph Bonaparte was at Valladolid on the 10th, and proceeded on the 12th on his journey towards Madrid.

Extract of a Dispatch from General Lord Viscount Wellington, dated Castello Branco, 1st August, 1811.

I have moved the whole army to their left. I propose that they shall take up their cantonments in Lower Beira instead of Alemtejo.

The army of Portugal remain in the position which I informed your Lordship that they occupied in my dispatch of the 25th July, excepting that the division at Placentia has extended through the mountains to Bejar and Banos.

By a letter from General Silviera of the 21st of July, which I received on the 26th, I learnt that General Santocildes had retired with the army of Gallicia from the neighbourhood of Astorga to Mancanal on the 17th, in consequence of Marshal Bessieres having collected at Benevente a force consisting of eleven thousand infantry and fifteen hundred cavalry.

Admiralty Office, Aug. 22.

Copy of a letter from Capt. Bourchier, of his Majesty's sloop the Hawke, to Admiral Sir Roger Curtis, Bart. dated at Sea, August 19, 1811, and transmitted by him to J. W. Croker, Esq.

SIR,—I beg leave to state to you, that, in obedience to your directions, I proceeded in his Majesty's brig under my command to the eastward of St. Marcou, in order to intercept any of the enemy's trade bound to the westward; at two p. m. St. Marcou bearing W. by N. six leagues, we observed from the mast-head a convoy of French vessels steering for Barfleur; all sail was immediately made in chace, and on our near approach, we perceived them to be protected by three armed national brigs and two large luggers, the former carrying from 12 to 16 guns, the latter from 8 to 10 each, apparently well manned. Convinced from their hauling out from their convoy in close order, it was their intention to attack us, I immediately hove to, to receive them, and at half-past three p. m. Point Pierre bearing N. W. half W. four miles, the action commenced within half-pistol shot, and continued with great spirit on both sides until we succeeded in driving on shore two of the brigs and the two luggers, with fifteen sail of their convoy; but in the act of wearing to prevent the third brig raking us, we unfortunately grounded, which enabled her and a few of her convoy to escape, although having previously struck to us. My whole attention at this time was getting his Majesty's brig off, by lightening her of her booms, spars, anchors, and a few of her guns, &c. which was effected in an hour and a half, under incessant discharges of artillery and musketry, which completely lined the shore. I thought it then most prudent to anchor in order to replace the running rigging, during which time I dispatched the boats under the command of Lieut. David Price, my Second Lieutenant (my first being in a prize), to bring out or destroy as many of the enemy's vessels as practicable; he succeeded in bringing out the Heron national brig, pierced for sixteen guns, mounting only ten, and three large transports, laden with timber for ship building; the rest were on their broadsides and completely bilged, and was only prevented from burning them by the strength of the tide being against him; which service was conducted in a most masterly and gallant manner, under a galling fire of musketry, from the beach lined with troops. Lieutenant Price speaks in very high terms of the gallantry displayed by Mr. Smith, Master, and Mr. Wheeler, Gunner, who handsomely volunteered their services on the occasion.

[Here follows an eulogium on the officers and men engaged, in which Lieut. Price, and Mr. Campling, the Purser, are particularly noticed.]

I have, &c. H. BOURCHIER.

A List of Vessels captured, drove on shore, and escaped, 16th August.

Vessels taken.—National brig La Heron, pierced for 16 guns, mounting 10, four of them hove overboard to lighten her. Concord, laden with oak and deal plank. La Amiable Amie, laden with ditto. A vessel, name unknown, No. 710, laden with mahogany plank.

Vessels drove on shore.—One national brig, two luggers, names unknown, and 12 sail of merchant vessels.

Vessels escaped.—One national brig and nine merchant vessels.

BANKRUPTCIES ENLARGED.

H. Mewburn, Jun., Lloyd's Coffee-house, broker, from Aug. 24 to Oct. 12.—T. Halliday, Old South Sea-House, mer-

rchant, from Aug. 31 to Oct. 19.—R. Bayly, Kennington, Surrey, merchant, from Aug. 31 to Sept. 24.—T. Brock and B. Le Mesurier, Warnford-court, Throgmorton-street, merchants, from Aug. 24 to Aug. 31.

BANKRUPTS.

S. Robertson, Liverpool, merchant.
W. Glaze, Wolverhampton, glass-manufacturer.
R. M'Naught, Manchester, cotton-spinner.
J. Large, Wrexham, cheese-factor.
J. Hickey, Worcester, carver.
J. Oldfield, Earlsheaton, Dewsbury, blanket-maker.
E. Lonsdale, York, linen-draper.
J. Lutyens, Lloyd's Coffee-house, insurance-broker.
W. Fairmaner, Liss, Hants, shopkeeper.
J. Hay, Waltham-Abbey, Essex, baker.
J. Scantlebury, Hythe, Kent, taylor.
W. Butcher, Ashfield, Nottingham, mercer.
J. Burbridge and R. Potter, St. Thomas Apostle, London, warehousemen.
T. Brett, Puddle-dock, London, sugar-refiner.
R. King, Mincing-lane, London, merchant.
G. Crowe, Titchborne-street, Middlesex, man's-mercer.
J. Hayston, Tower Royal, London, dealer.
J. Kemp, Burr-street, East Smithfield, dealer.

SATURDAY.—HOLIDAY AT THE BANK.

Remarks on Mr. HOLMAN's appearance in Tragedy and Sentimental Comedy, next week.

Two Letters announced for this week, are again postponed to next.

The Editor is much obliged to NAUTICUS for his Communication on the subject of Naval Punishments; but he need not say, that every Case must be well authenticated before it can appear.

THE EXAMINER.

LONDON, AUGUST 25.

THE Gazette of last night contains two brief "Extracts" of Dispatches from Lord WELLINGTON, who has moved from the province of Alentejo to that of Lower Beira, in which he proposes that the Army shall take up their cantonments.—The intelligence afforded by these "Extracts" is, as usual, extremely meagre: nothing is published of the successes of the enemy in the interior of Spain, who are rapidly reducing all the strong fortresses, and by thus narrowing the scene of war, will soon be enabled to resume offensive operations in Portugal, with an augmented if not an overwhelming force.

The *Little Belt*, of whose quarrel with the American ship *President*, so much has been said and so little settled, except that the American Commodore, as he shews by his own account of it, is a great coxcomb—has arrived at Portsmouth. She brings intelligence of an action of two hours and a half, between the French frigate *Entreprenante*, of *thirty-two* guns, and the English sloop of war *Atalante*, of *sixteen*, Capt. HICKEY, which terminated in the capture of the former. The loss on the part of the enemy is said to have been thirty men in killed and wounded, and on ours only five. Disproportions so great, make accounts suspicious, but if ever they become probable, and even more than probable, it is when English sailors are concerned. These are the exploits, that acting upon the conscious feelings of the enemy for a series of years, help to win our battles for us before they are begun.

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French Papers to the 18th and 19th arrived yesterday. The *Moniteur* of the 19th contains the following curious article:—

Paris, Aug. 19.

Yesterday, Sunday, before mass, the Emperor, surrounded by the Princes, Grand Dignitaries, the Ministers, Grand Officers, Grand Eagles of the Legion of Honour, &c. received, in the Hall of the Throne, at the Palace of St. Cloud, a Deputation from the Ionian Isles, and from the department of La Lippe. M. Theotoki, and the Duke de Looz, the Presidents of the Deputations, presented Addresses.

The following is the reply of his Majesty, to the Address of the Ionian Isles:—

"GENTLEMEN, Deputies from the Ionian Isles,—I have caused great works to be completed in your country. I have collected a great number of troops, and ammunition of all kinds. I do not regret the expences which Corfu has cost my Treasury. It is the Key of the Adriatic. *I will never abandon the Islands which the superiority of the enemy by sea has placed in their power.* In India, in America, in the Mediterranean, *every thing that is and has been French shall always be so.* Conquered by the enemy, by the vicissitudes of war, they shall return into the Empire by the other events of the war, or by the stipulations of peace. I should always consider it as an eternal blot upon my reign, if I ever sanctioned the abandonment of a single Frenchman."

To the Address from the Lippe, his Majesty replied as follows:—

"GENTLEMEN, Deputies of the Department of La Lippe—The town of Munster belonged to an Ecclesiastical Sovereign; deplorable effect of ignorance and superstition! You were without country—Providence, who willed that I should restore the Throne of Charlemagne, has made you naturally enter, with Holland and the Hanse Towns, into the bosom of the Empire. From the moment in which you became French, my heart made no difference between you and other parts of my States. As soon as circumstances shall permit me, I shall feel a lively satisfaction in being among you."

Two more Lisbon Mails arrived on Saturday. JOSEPH BONAPARTE, it is said, has decreed a meeting of the Cortes!

On the 24th July an extraordinary degree of heat was felt in Oporto. At seven o'clock the air began to appear very red in the west, and soon after in the east, and not long afterwards likewise in the north and south. On the eastern side the atmosphere became very dark, and as night came on, a violent storm of wind blew from the sea, which dismasted many vessels, and dashed others one against another, occasioning a great deal of damage. During the storm, which was likewise severely felt, there were prodigious flashes of lightning from all the four quarters of the hemisphere, accompanied by most violent claps of thunder, to the great terror of the inhabitants, who with loud cries put up prayers for mercy. Nothing equal to it is remembered by the oldest inhabitant of Oporto. Fortunately, however, no persons were killed; some were so

overcome by the terror that they were taken seriously ill."—*Lisbon Diary, July* 30.

The letters from Cadiz express entire confidence in the strength of the defences, which have been improved by cutting through the Isthmus, and thus completely insulating the town. BLAKE, after recruiting his troops at Cadiz, has again sailed with five thousand men, as is supposed, for Carthagena, to co-operate with the army under General FREIRE. Nothing appears more unaccountable to those at a distance from the scene of operations, than these frequent arrivals, and embarkations, at a besieged town. It were natural to expect, that the first object would be to raise the siege, by attacking the army before the place.

The Duke DEL INFANTADO, said to be one of the most wealthy and popular Grandees of Spain, has arrived in this country, as Ambassador from FERDINAND.

Capt. HEAD, of the brig Cosmopolite, which had arrived at New-York from Campeachy in 53 days, brought information that a severe action had taken place in Mexico, between the Government troops and the Revolutionists, in which the former had been defeated with great loss.

Intelligence has been received from Buenos Ayres, to the 17th of June, from which it appears, that Monte Video being invested by the troops from Buenos Ayres, and incapable of protracted resistance, had fallen. ELIO, the Governor, is believed to have betaken himself to his ships. He had at his command two frigates and some smaller vessels.

The Chesterfield packet, which has arrived with mails from the Leeward Islands, brings distressing accounts of the damage done to the shipping by a hurricane which visited a number of islands on the 7th and 8th ult. The following are some of the details:—

At Martinique, four or five sail lost.—At Antigua, his Majesty's ship Gloire lost her mizen-mast, and threw several of her guns overboard; his Majesty's brig Guachapin, of 12 guns, sunk at her moorings; several large merchantmen, and about thirty small vessels, on shore; the ship St. Andrew hilged, and cargo lost; the Braganza and Speculation on shore, but expected to be got off.—At St. Kitts, the ship Sussex, partly loaded, totally lost; Captain drowned, crew saved.—At Nevis, the ship Rachael totally lost.—At St. Martin's, several vessels, chiefly Americans, lost on the shoals of Aneguedo.—The ship Clarendon, bound to Honduras, totally dismasted, was carried into Tortola by the Chesterfield.—The Adventure packet, with mails for Jamaica, arrived at Barbadoes, with loss of main-topmast. —Forty vessels, chiefly Americans, were on shore at St. Bartholomew's.

The *New York Morning Post* contains the following account:—

NEW-YORK, JULY 22.—Captain Bulkley arrived here last night, and informs us, that on Saturday last, off the Capes of the Delaware, four miles from the land, he witnessed an engagement between two ships of war, which continued from four till half-past six P. M. when one of the ships struck. After the engagement, an Officer from one of them came on board Capt. B.'s schooner, the Ann Eliza, who proved to be an Officer from the British sloop of war Atalanta, Capt. Hickey, who informed him, that the ship that had struck was the French frigate Entreprenante, of 32 guns, bound from Brest to New York, with dispatches and some cargo. The Atalanta had one killed and four wounded. The Entreprenante had 30 killed and wounded. Captain Bulkley did not learn how long the French ship had been out, or what became of the dispatches.

Before the expedition that terminated at Barrosa, the Cortes debated two or three *days* about the propriety of having prayers and processions for its success!

The British Merchants in Sicily have addressed a Memorial to the Board of Trade, on the subject of the restrictions and embarrassments to which our commerce with that island is exposed. This Memorial is couched in strong terms; and, amidst a multiplicity of other points, it states the conduct of the Sicilian Government to Mr. FAGAN, the British Consul, who "had been repeatedly and grossly insulted by the Authorities of the Sicilian Government, and treated in the execution of his consular duty with every mark of indignity, inattention, and disrespect."

Lieutenant MACKWORTH, the eldest son and heir of the Baronet of that name, who had been lately appointed an extra Aid-de-Camp to General HILL, has been taken prisoner by the enemy at Albuquerque, which he went to reconnoitre.—A still more melancholy occurrence has taken place:—Colonel B——N, who, it would appear, conceived himself reflected on for allowing the garrison of Almeida to escape, has put a period to his life. It is said, he had made application to the Commander of the Forces for a Court-Martial, which not being able to obtain, he wrote letters to Lieutenant Colonel PATERSON, his brother-in-law, and the rest of his friends, taking leave of them, acknowledging the impropriety of the act he was about to commit, but at the same time declaring, that finding it impossible to obtain an opportunity of clearing his fame, which to him, a military man, was dearer than life, was what had determined him to such a rash act.

The Hon. GEORGE VILLIERS, late Paymaster of Marines, it is well known, is a defaulter in his accounts, to the amount of 264,507*l.* Towards making up this deficiency, which the Committee on the Public Expenditure, in their Eleventh Report, very politely term a "debt due to his Majesty," 56,462*l.* 19*s.* resulting from the sale of estates, &c, have already been received; and the Report adds, under the head "to be expected," the sum of 79,749*l.* 17*s.* So that, *if* the large "expected" sum is obtained, the Honourable GEORGE VILLIERS will have taken out of the public purse little more than *twenty-eight thousand pounds*. In the arrangement of these matters, there appears something rather mysterious to common observers. If a clerk in a merchant's house makes use of his employer's money, he is plainly called a felon, and is punished as such: but if an Honourable or Right Honourable Servant of the State uses the money entrusted to his care, he is merely termed a debtor! Thus in such cases it is plain that the interests of individuals are much better protected than those of the nation.

The prosecution against *Churchyard*, and five other persons, for obstructing a dissenting congregation in performing divine service at Wickham Market in February last, has been compromised by their pleading guilty, entering into recognizances for their future good behaviour, and attendance when required, in the Court of King's Bench, for judgment; and further, to pay two hundred guineas, to be applied at the discretion of the prosecutors.

At a Meeting of a numerous body of the Electors of Southwark in the interest of Mr. CALVERT the brewer, who has offered himself as a candidate to represent the Borough, that Gentleman gave a pledge that he would support the cause of Reform.—It is expected that there will be a warm contest at the next election, not only in

the Borough of Southwark, but in every part of the country where the people have a voice in returning the Members. In these few places, such is the unanimous wish for Reform, the Corruptionists will be expelled almost to a man.

Mr. GREVILLE says, that the exhibition of children at his Theatre was so ridiculous a supposition, that he scarcely thought it worthy a serious refutation. The clause in the licence, allowing such performances, was left in, he says, by mistake; and he never had the slightest intention of using it. The privileges of the Opera-House are to act serious as well as comic operas; those of the Pantheon, to act only comic pieces, and all sorts of recitative varieties.

THE KING'S ILLNESS.

MEDICAL BULLETINS.

"*Windsor Castle, Aug.* 18.

"There is no alteration in his Majesty's symptoms to-day."

"*Windsor Castle, Aug.* 19.

"His Majesty has had a sleepless night, and is not quite so well this morning."

"*Windsor Castle, Aug.* 20.

"The King is not better this morning. His Majesty has passed another sleepless night."

"*Windsor Castle, Aug.* 21.

"His Majesty has slept throughout the night, and appears refreshed this morning."

"*Windsor Castle, Aug.* 22.

"There is no variation in his Majesty's symptoms since yesterday."

"*Windsor Castle, Aug.* 23.

"His Majesty is to-day nearly as he was yesterday."

"*Windsor Castle, Aug.* 24.

"There is no change in his Majesty's symptoms."

During the early part of the week, the daily newspapers contained various accounts of the dreadful condition of his MAJESTY. They stated that his strength was much diminished, and his person greatly reduced—that his memory had deserted him, so that he was wholly unconscious of the individuals about his person;—that he was in a state of unremitting coercion;—that the pressure of water upon the brain was decidedly ascertained, as stooping produced great pain, and ease could only be obtained by supporting the head of the Royal Sufferer in an erect position. Added to all this, it was said, that to aversion from food had succeeded an unnatural appetite, although the organs of deglutition and digestion were alike defective. Such were the newspaper statements at the beginning of the week. In a day or two after, however, there appeared a sort of general contradiction, in which it was insinuated that such statements were altogether incorrect. But one thing appears certain, that at no period of his disorder, has his MAJESTY been worse than during the past week.

THEATRICAL CORRESPONDENCE.

SIR,—I have always felt much gratification from the freedom as well as the truth of your dramatic criticisms; and when I have looked to the influence of the Stage upon the national taste, and to the control over it which the Press alone has power to exercise, I have lamented that gratuitous admission should be considered as the price of unqualified praise by so many of our daily Papers. It seems, however, that the province of criticism may be more frequently extended from the actors to the getting up, as it is called, of Plays founded upon ancient story, and the correctness of a costume, which, when it once deviates from that of the present time, ought to be strictly correct. Much in this way has been professed upon the modern Stage, but little has in fact been done: dissimilarity of dress may for the moment impose upon an audience; but this, however gaudy, is not the point that ought to be aimed at. I doubt indeed whether less evil in this repect did not arise from GARRICK'S *Macbeth*, in a general's uniform and tie wig, than from KEMBLE'S anomalous Highland habiliments,—less from Mrs. PRITCHARD'S hoop and long waist, than from Mrs. SIDDONS'S imitation of *Mary Queen of Scots* in the same tragedy; and more especially, when the anachronism is extended to the surrounding scenery and low-arched Gothic of the reign of HENRY VI.—In the last season, ADDISON'S *Cato* has been revived with what has been called a scrupulous attention to Roman habits; and I admit the effect to be much increased, and every commendation to be due to the attempt. Nor would I insist upon the comparative scantiness of our modern *Cato's* toga, which, perhaps, if it was fuller in its folds, might take away from the convenience and freedom of the actor;—I would merely remark upon its ornament, which in the *toga prætexta* was a purple border, and which did not undergo any change, I believe, before the reign of AUGUSTUS. It will be readily granted, that words do but very imperfectly express the infinite shades of difference in compound colours; but it appears to me that no variation of that period can justify the conversion of purple to a light red, or rather, as it seemed to me by candle-light, a scarlet, especially when the purple of the *murex* more nearly verged upon black, like a clot of blood, and, as being in the highest estimation, would most probably be used by persons of Consular dignity. In truth, it struck me to be just as improper as if our Bishops were to use the same latitude of interpretation, and clothe themselves in the colour of our Generals. I am the more disposed to press this point, because I hold Mr. KEMBLE'S knowledge and exertions in high estimation; and therefore admit the possibility that I may myself be deceived, and that his adoption may be justifiable upon some authority beyond my reach of reading.

Give me leave further to mention, in a quotation, that our modern quadruped spectacle has by no means the merit even of novelty, and to recommend to its admirers the perusal of the sentiments, upon the same subject, of the most refined philosopher and scholar of ancient Rome. CICERO (Ep. Lib. 7. 1.) thus writes to M. MARIUS, of the exhibition made by POMPEY:—*Quid enim delectationes habent sexcenti muli in Clytemnestra? aut in equo Trojano craterarum trià millia? aut armatura varia peditatus & equitatus, ut in aliqua pugnâ? quæ populares admirationem habuerunt tibi nullam illulissent.*

I trust, for the honour of my country, that a British audience would not bear the exhibition of an actual combat, as the Roman did; but there is a further hint in the same Epistle, which, by the co-operation of Signior POLITO, may be useful in the next season:—*Elephantorum extremus dies fuit.* I am, Sir, your's, &c.

OBSERVATOR.

PARISH ABUSES.

Complaints respecting waste in the expenditure of money collected for the poor, have been made in all sorts of ways, and the evil has occupied the attention of a number of patriotic individuals, both privately and publicly, but hitherto with small effect. Some most respectable inhabitants of Lambeth parish have lately taken up the subject in a very becoming and spirited manner, and have published a Report, in which they charge the Parish Officers with misapplying, in various ways, upwards of 10,000*l.*—The Parish Officers have replied to this statement, and justify the waste in dinners, &c. upon the ancient and stupid plea, that such practices have "been expressly authorised from time immemorial."—Now, it must appear to every rational man, that the question is, not whether the practices are *old*, but whether they are *good* ones.—It is quite notorious, that of the millions levied for the support of the Poor, thousands are wasted by the Parish Officers in costly dinners, expensive journies, and profligate jobs.—Under pretence of visiting the children of the poor, who are usually sent to some distance from town, the "great men" of the parish, with their wives, mistresses, and friends, on certain days in the year, put themselves into postchaises, and make a country excursion. Arriving at the best taverns near the spot, dinner is ordered, and after the inspection has taken place, and the whole party *refreshed* with the best the season can afford, they return in the same extravagant stile.—Whether this mode is practised in Lambeth parish, the writer does not know; but it certainly is in several in and about London.

The great evil is, that the management of the poor is too often placed in the hands of the meanest men in the parish,—people who undertake the office from mere motives of selfishness;—an ignorant and sordid set, whose society is shunned by all the respectable inhabitants; but who, having scraped up some pounds by all sorts of dirty ways, become, to the great annoyance of the poor creatures who fall under their guidance, the leaders at Vestries and Parish Meetings. Such are the men who parcel out among each other all the good things of the parish,—who eat, drink, and frolic, at the expense of the inhabitants,—and when charged with these outrageous doings, impudently tell their betters that "they have been expressly authorised from time immemorial," and complain, forsooth, that such charges are "uncandid, illiberal, and calumnious," and tend "to disturb the *harmony* that had long prevailed in the parish."

Mr. Goodbehere, however, and the other friends to the poor and advocates for economy, will not be stopped in their laudable career by such impudent assertions. If men of their stamp would rouse themselves in every parish, the jobbers would soon be put down, the rates diminished, and the interests of the Poor much better attended to.

MR. LEWIS GOLDSMITH & GEN. J. SARRAZIN.

Of General Sarrazin, as a mere emigrant from France, had he not condescended to a most extraordinary exposition of himself, much variety of opinion might have been entertained. He has written, and doubt is at an end. If he had remained silent, he never would have been deemed a man of high-wrought mind or lofty principles. He has been employed too much, acted too much, and dropped from command into desertion in a manner too mean and equivocal, for so favourable a presumption. But under these disadvantages, had he so permitted, by a little extension of candour and charity, he might have been allowed a place among the respectable of a second order. It might have been supposed, that sickened with despotism and the splendid slavery he assisted to support, he might wish to drop into retirement and private life; that the danger of gratifying a wish so founded in France might induce him to seek the nearest asylum he could find; with proper feelings, both to those he joined and to those he left behind. Such reasoning and resolutions, it must be confessed, are seldom the result of soldierly experience; but strong circumstance has frequently produced exceptions, and General Sarrazin might have been one of them. Even in this event, his retreat would have exhibited nothing of the dignified patriotism of Moreau, or of the high-souled philosophy of Lucien Bonaparte; but there is no country on earth where such motives would have been better understood, praised, and esteemed, than in England.

If, as before stated, General Sarrazin quickly relieved us from the fatigue of conjecture, it must be allowed the manner in which he did it, considering him a man of the least previous consequence, was at once singular and ludicrous. Only think of a General, one week in an important command and the next in an enemy's country, opening a newspaper war with his last week's Sovereign! There is no accounting for the false estimation with which weak men regard themselves, their powers, and abilities; but the General must have a very different opinion of Bonaparte from the writer of these strictures, if he imagines such vague and impotent resentment can much affect him. Still more defective is his judgment, if he supposes frantic abuse and 'three piled hyperbole' calculated to gain the suffrage of the discriminating part of the British public.—Alas! the *Morning Post* has reduced itself to a proverb by cloying us with these sweets; and unless General Sarrazin can prevail on the proprietors of that enlightened and respectable Journal to let him succeed the present sapient Editor, I know not of one British employment he has proved himself fit for. It is not, however, the facetious misconceptions of this military gentleman, either with respect to himself, Bonaparte, or the British nation, that merit serious observation from any one. The deviation, our national enmity renders us too much disposed to overlook, is of a much more serious description. It is quite evident that he left his own country with the positive intention of entering into the service of her most decided opponent. Now, we will allow men to quarrel about families, dynasties, and rulers, and may even be disposed to pardon their warring against the general sense of their compatriots, when thus impelled; but that they can legitimately act with a foreign foe, is never to be admitted, while the love of country remains any thing but a name. Hatred to usurpation cannot for a moment be considered the exciting motive of General Sarrazin: he has let it appear too clearly, that his desertion arose from disappointment and disgust, at not being a more prominent figure in the circle of the very Usurper he detests. Nay, he scarcely attempts to conceal that to this ignoble cause we owe his presence, his books, and his information.—Good God! his information!—and of what a nature!—The General is a *Frenchman*, not a native of any of the subjugated countries, and one of the first acts of this Frenchman is to boast, from the head-quarters of the foe, that he has brought with him maps, plans, and particulars of the coast, the

fortifications, and the harbours of France. Let us not attempt to disguise this kind of conduct. Were Bonaparte an incarnation of the Evil Principle, unless he added immortality to his attributes, its demerits would be the same.—The enmity of England and France neither began with Napoleon nor is it likely to end with him:—they have been rivals and at war with each other, with little intermission, for nearly five hundred years, and whoever the rulers, there appears little probability of their ceasing to continue so, while each evinces so ardent a disposition to rule the rest of the world When, therefore, a native of one of these countries betrays any material points to the other, it is useless attempting to defend the treachery by the character of the sovereign of the hour. The plea is despicable and shallow; and let us ask ourselves, what we should have thought even of the goaded Despard, had he ran to Paris and acted so by Great Britain? If ever man had cause to blush for himself, it was General Sarrazin, when he published that letter in the *Times* newspaper, which alludes to the capture of the Mauritius;—that precious document, in which he gives the world and Bonaparte to understand that its conquest was facilitated by his information and advice! An ancient and, from situation, a very valuable colony to France, both in peace and war, almost unexpectedly taken, and a Frenchman taking credit for the event! Let our Ministers pension and despise this man, as they have many others; but let not the British nation applaud a dereliction so miserable and so gross. We can afford to part with our money; but if ever we give up the principle of impartial judgment, and censure or applaud through our hopes and our fears, our first characteristic as a people is given up for ever. To do justice to both nations, the conduct here condemned is not very common to the natives of either.* There is a nationality, both among Englishmen and Frenchmen, operating strongly against a disposition to injure their native land; and this is probably one cause of their comparative prosperity. In countries where these peculiar feelings are weakened by the facility and practice of transferring allegiance and service, the most baleful confusion very frequently follows. In Germany, for instance, adventurers, both civil and military, have been in the habit of running with themselves and their talents to all the little despots in turn,—a very natural consequence of which was, that patriotism, having no locality, never existed. Thus the miserable weakness of the Germanic system has always appeared when attacked by a powerful enemy, although never exhibited in a stronger point of view than recently, when Prince, Courtier, and General, without unity, soul, or confederacy, were all engrossed in speculating on the interests of sole and absolute *self*, until speculation was useless and the object of it no more.

By the mistake of General Sarrazin,—for it is hardly to be doubted that he expected to be employed, actively and ostensibly, by our Government,—we may gather a tolerably correct idea of the manner in which British character is estimated by a certain class of foreigners. Indeed, those who have been in the habit of conversing with emigrants and foreign officers in our service wanted nothing of this information before. The prevalent opinion of these people is, that the British nation is rich, credulous, and (in naval affairs excepted) *maladroit*; consequently, that a certain species of ability cannot but be welcome. They forget this very inexpertness arises from a cause which repays them for a little occasional injury by a thousand blessings,—the necessity, in some degree, of consulting and submitting to public opinion. The want of active and practical ability among ourselves is the very last thing to which it should be attributed. To give opinion in return, the prevailing sentiment in England of adventuring foreigners is, that they possess much finesse and intrigue, with little principle; and that to employ them to any great extent, while we have talent, activity, and energy of our own, is neither judicious nor requisite. To borrow a figure from a prevailing topic, whatever their individual honour or merit, they want the mint's stamp upon them; and compared with the native, like the paper substitute for guineas, can only be considered as a depreciated currency. Our national jealousy of foreigners, if we could get rid of a little exterior want of urbanity, is therefore a correct feeling. They may be pliable and useful in the hands of a certain kind of governors; but the governed, when a free people, should always regard their employment with caution and distrust +.

Before I take leave of General Sarrazin and his productions, I cannot help observing the extreme resemblance of the latter to the works of emigrants and refugees, published at the Hague during the reigns of Louis the 14th and 15th. The same particular detail of anecdotes, which could never have became public—of conversations which we wonder who under Heaven could repeat—and of bon mot, point, and sarcasm, which might have been spoken any where, or by any body, but the exact parties who are made to utter it. With respect to the two sovereigns, their mistresses, their devotion, and their bastards, they afforded more room for piquant observation and raillery than the stormy Napoleon; and consequently there is more amusement in the perusal of their satirists. Every attempt to cloud the dark and terrible energies of the latter with the base and puerile vices of a Nero or Heliogabalus, is futile; the inconsistency can but transiently impose even on the meanest capacities, and men of sense discredit them immediately. He is a poor painter who cannot pourtray deformity without picturing the impossible; nor is he skilled in combination who attempts to crowd the attributes of a giant and a dwarf within the same outline. It is enough for English consideration that the merciless ambition of this Despot is deaf to the misery of millions; and that should he even delude himself into the supposition of benevolent intention, men were not formed to groan under the chariot wheels of conquerors by way of experiment.—The conduct and actions of a man, whose Utopia appears to be the government of the world by a single will, must ever be regarded with scorn and detestation by a free people: it is hardly necessary to recur to folly and fiction to deepen the horror or darken the shade.—I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

AMICUS.

* The Emigrant retainers of the Bourbons, and the English partizans of the Stuarts, are not forgotten in this observation; but it is submitted, that the operating causes of these secessions entirely distinguish them from the cases more particularly under consideration.

+ Even the Spanish objection to entrust the entire management of their affairs to the English, is honourable in origin, although erroneous in application. It is exactly the kind of exception logicians consider as the strongest proof of the existence of the general rule. That nation is decidedly either powerless or contemptible, which at once throws its defence and protection into the hands of strangers.

WHY ARE WE NOW AT WAR?

LETTER V.

TO W. WILBERFORCE, Esq. M.P.

Sir,—The Proclamations of the Spanish Junta, and the Manifestos of their Agents, were indeed full of expressions of gratitude to England, the "magnanimous ally," the "generous nation," that was supporting the cause of Ferdinand. That the people at large entertained very different sentiments has been clearly proved by a variety of facts. Their hatred to France, and their desire of resisting the usurpation of Joseph, did not overcome the jealousy they felt of the views of our Government. Of this the most incontrovertible proofs are afforded in the journal of our injured General, published by his brother in reply to whispered calumnies and base insinuations against a man, whose life was devoted to the service of his country. The army we sent to the assistance of Spain was for a time uncertain whether it would be permitted to land,—when disembarked, instead of being hailed as deliverers, our soldiers were received with coolness—their presence appeared to chill the enthusiasm which had triumphed at Baylen, and driven the Usurper beyond the Ebro,—the assistance necessary to facilitate their progress was denied—supplies were withheld, shelter refused, and the hardships of an inclement season increased by the reluctance of the people to offer any alleviation. Such was the reception given to our countrymen in a province, the inhabitants of which rose in arms and expelled the French soon after the retreat of the British forces. This proves that they were not deficient in zeal or energy, and on the part of our soldiers there seems to have been no irregularity, but on the contrary a marked desire not to offend any religious prejudices or national feeling. The cause of mistrust must have been antecedent to the appearance of our transports on the coast of Gallicia, and too powerful to be counteracted even by the pressure of increasing calamity. One of its most distinguished features was a care to prevent our obtaining possession of any of their naval stations or ships of war. The assistance we offered against the French fleet in the harbour of Cadiz was immediately refused.—Ferrol and its ships they kept at the evident risk of their again falling into the hands of the common enemy, rather than place them in security under our protection. An obvious cause for all this may be found in the overbearing and tyrannical system on which our Government had acted in so many recent instances. Can it be supposed that the seizure of the Spanish frigates at the moment when the expected port was in view, where their collected treasures and valuable freights were to be safely deposited,—can it be supposed that this event had made no impression? Can it be supposed that no sympathy was felt with families impoverished by the loss of their wealth, or afflicted by the misfortunes of long absent relatives, who at the moment when the finest feelings of human nature were alive to approaching delights, and the heart was bounding with rapture at the idea of home, of former friendships and endearing connections, were assaulted amid unguarded security by a treacherous foe, and led away to captivity, or buried in the fathomless caves of the ocean? Can it be supposed that the recollection of so great a national insult should have passed away and left behind no traces—that a people thus injured should have lost all feelings of hostility and aversion to the power from whose lawless violence the injury proceeded? Nothing had occurred since the event to obliterate the impression; on the contrary, the Marquis of Romana and the Spanish armies had been quartered in the neighbourhood of Copenhagen. The sufferings of that unfortunate city, and the hatred to England with which they beheld every Dane animated, must have recalled to Spanish minds the outrage their own nation had sustained, and awakened in Spanish bosoms a corresponding sensation.—This could not have escaped the penetrating eye of Bonaparte, and with his intentions upon Spain, nothing could be more conducive to the success of his plans, than to nourish the feelings of jealousy and mistrust which that people must have entertained towards England. The bombardment of Copenhagen was a tale of woe calculated to recall most emphatically the memory of our aggression against Spain, and it would naturally excite the greatest horror in those, who from having experienced similar treatment, were most sensible to the sufferings it occasioned. The distance between Denmark and Spain did not permit that communication of particulars, which heightens by instances of individual distress the colours of a picture of general mourning, and operates most forcibly upon the imagination and the feelings. Bonaparte was aware of this; he knew too the truth of that oft quoted observation of Horace—

> Segnius irritant animos demissa per aurem,
> Quam quæ sunt subjecta oculis fidelibus, et quæ
> Ipse sibi tradit spectator.

With these motives he induced the Spanish government to march a portion of their army into Denmark, doubly promoting his purpose by lessening their means of resistance, and keeping alive their jealousy of the only power by which they might be encouraged to oppose the revolution he was projecting. It is true that the Marquis of Romana put himself and his forces under the protection of a British fleet, to escape from the snare into which he had been drawn, and that in his subsequent Proclamations he has often mentioned this country in terms of respect. But did he ever appear to view with satisfaction the presence of an English army in Spain? Did he not even after the defeats of the Patriots in Biscay shew evident reluctance to unite his shattered forces with those of our lamented Moore?—The Spanish people discovered the views of our Government; they felt that the assistance we were sending them arose from no new-born affection for a nation which we had before so seriously injured, but from a desire of serving ourselves—that we espoused their cause not to emancipate Spain, but to annoy France—and that they had no security that troops, thus introduced among them, might not be made the instruments of some future aggression. Such sentiments do not certainly appear to have been ever expressed, but the conduct witnessed by our countrymen may fairly be attributed to sentiments of which the preceding statements afford but a faint idea. If the above causes only contributed to the success of Bonaparte's ambitious project, we see in this a most complete instance of a dishonest and crooked policy recoiling upon its authors—we again see the sufferings of Copenhagen avenged by the loss of a fairer opportunity of successful opposition to France than had ever before been presented, or is likely again to occur.

Throughout the whole of the Spanish struggle our Cabinet has evinced either the most consummate ignorance of the actual merits of the Junta, and of the means requisite

for awakening the energies of the people over which that body was placed, or a most wicked folly in continuing to support and expect success from measures so inadequate and men so incapable. All the efforts of the different Continental States had proved that a perseverance in old systems was unavailing against the extraordinary means possessed by Bonaparte. Of all the old systems that of Spain was the most corrupt, feeble, and oppressive—the least calculated to awaken the vigour or apply the resources of the nation. It had spread around it a lethargy, which had benumbed exertion and withered the sinews of the State. Here indeed "the age of chivalry" was gone! "the nurse of manly sentiment and heroic enterprize" was lost! Here indeed "a nation of gallant men, a nation of men of honour and cavaliers," was fallen and degraded! All traces were lost of the generous feelings by which they were once inspired, of the lofty ideas by which they were once ennobled! In this instance, however, at least, it must be owned that the charge was not to be attributed to the "new conquering empire of light and reason." The spirit of fealty and subordination of the heart, of which Mr. Burke justly ascribed the origin to the age of chivalry, are not mere self-animating principles; they cannot be kept alive without finding in the objects to which they are directed, qualities worthy of their attachment and veneration. Rank will cease to command respect when its dignity is lost; power may be sullenly obeyed, but can expect no willing and dignified submission, when it crushes the improvement it ought to foster—when it represses the energies it ought to protect—when it checks by austerity where it ought to attract by blandness. In no country had the spirit of chivalry risen higher than in Spain, and no where had it been more entirely subdued. Aided by the terrors of the Inquisition, and the influence of monkism, the Spanish Government rendered itself gradually so absolute, as to dispense even with the forms of freedom; it broke the spirit of the nation, and then sate brooding in careless repose and gloomy torpor over the venerable ruin it had made. Nothing could be more calculated to repair the wreck—to revive the broken spirit of the Spanish people, than the step taken by Bonaparte. By insidiously getting into his power the whole of their royal family, by removing from the throne the descendants of a long line of monarchs, and substituting in their place a branch of his own dynasty, he aroused the dormant spirit of loyalty and latent feelings of honour, qualities which had slumbered, but were not yet extinct; he excited too that contempt for upstart power and new raised dignity, which is most felt by those who can boast of nothing but the achievements of their ancestors. For a moment Spaniards seemed to have recovered their former character; the indolence, the weakness, the inanity of their Government, were forgotten; they felt only the insult offered to their sovereign and the disgrace brought upon themselves. The long-smothered flame of independence and patriotism burst forth, but it may truly be said to have expired in an *exhausted receiver*. The hands, in which were deposited these precious pledges of reviving animation, were strengthless and unskilled; the minds, which were entrusted with the guidance of these spontaneous exertions of an indignant people, had been trained in error, and were too weak either to perceive or break their trammels. Enthusiasm is an evanescent emotion, not a lasting spring of action; but if properly directed while its influence is strong, it may new mould the character, and give to the mind a permanent and lofty tone. This might have been done with the dispositions of the Spanish people, had they been led on by men of vigorous talents and liberal principles, who, with a true knowledge of human nature, could have appreciated the importance, the duties, and the rights of each rank of society. Such men would have struck at the root of past evils; would have abolished at once the old system by which the whole nation had been debased and enervated. But instead of this, the old system continued to be acted upon, aggravated by having at its head an oligarchy composed of the feeblest members of the broken up court, who, instead of calling forth new energies in the people, depressed even those which had been aroused. While the Usurper was abolishing the Inquisition, the influence of priests and the rapacity of monks, the Junta were restraining the liberty of the press, and preventing any attempts to open the eyes or awaken the reason of their subjects. They knew not even how to organize and render effectual the means, which the enthusiasm of the people and the resources of the Indies offered to their acceptance, much less were they skilled in the art of prolonging that enthusiasm, or of deriving from it all the advantages it might produce. Instead of animating the nation by the example of activity, they amused it with wordy proclamations, high-sounding addresses, and vain illusions; instead of conferring solid advantages and substantial blessings, they trifled with the high-wrought feelings of the people, by giving them an empty name to feed upon. Did they believe that the name of Ferdinand VII. contained cabalistic charms? Were there any ideas associated with it to endear it to the affections of Spaniards? Did it awaken the recollection of splendid achievements or amiable qualities—of actions that had made war glorious or peace beneficial—of dispositions that engaged the heart in his service by the grateful record of a virtuous career, or the lively hope of future blessings? Had he indeed been brave as the Cid, and fortunate as Napoleon, renowned as a Charles, and courteous as a Francis, his name might have been justly dear to the nation: under the peculiar circumstances of his situation, it might have aroused exertion; and even the doubtful right, which intricate occurrences had given him to his father's crown, might have been forgotten. But the spirits of the people, unsupported by their Government, soon began to flag, and declining enthusiasm left their minds a prey to languor and despondency. In this state they would naturally ask, what advantages they should derive from the return of Ferdinand? They had nothing to expect but a perseverance in the old system; nothing more was offered to secure their exertions in the hour of danger: what reward then could they look for when those exertions should be no longer needed? Joseph Bonaparte, on the other hand, allured them to his sway, by abolishing that tribunal which had been the most successful engine of tyranny, and suppressing those institutions which had weighed most heavily upon the industry and improvement of Spain. It is true that the Junta were at last somewhat alarmed, and agreed to collect the Cortes. Well might Bonaparte exclaim—"Where are these Cortes to assemble, unless on board the fleets of England?" They were summoned for the 1st May, 1810, but before the end of February the greater part of Spain had submitted to the new Sovereign the armies of France introduced.

Such were the men and such the policy our Ministers either blindly or wickedly supported. They could not be ignorant of the history of Spain, of the character of its late rulers, or the actual situation of its inhabitants; but their political prejudices and ideas of government blinded them to the obvious inferences to be drawn from such knowledge. The communications of their confidential agents, the intelligence brought by every messenger, the accounts transmitted by our officers, the experience in fine of every passing week, must have proved how badly things were going on, and pointed out the existence of some radical defect. But our Ministers could see nothing wrong in persevering in the old beaten path; innovation would indeed have been an irretrievable error, particularly innovation upon a system which made the happiness and the rights of the people minor considerations, when compared with the prerogatives of the crown and the security of establishments. Will it be asked, were we to interfere with the domestic arrrangements of the Spanish Government? This delicacy was not felt when the Revolution was thought a sufficient ground for war with France: but it occurs most opportunely now, when all interference must have been in favour of the people, and the enlargement of their privileges. But without any officious interference in the domestic concerns of Spain, could there have been any want of delicacy in addressing to its Government a remonstrance to the following effect? "We are engaged in a common cause, but in which you are the party most immediately interested: anxious for its success, we watch it's progress attentively, and are alarmed by the visible decay of that enthusiasm which your country at first evinced. This we cannot but attribute to your perseverance in that system, by which you must be well aware that a nation so rich and powerful as your's has been reduced to the necessity of now fighting for it's independence. Without a change in that system, by which the people shall be interested in the fate of their government, we see no prospect of eventual success. We suggest no particular changes, but leave it to you to judge what concessions ought to be made. The duties we owe to our country require that we should be thus explicit, for an account will be demanded from us of the lives we may sacrifice, and the treasures we may expend in a fruitless contest."

In such a statement there could have been nothing to offend, and as our ministers did take to themselves some credit for sending over Marquis Wellesley with a tardy request to summon the Cortes, surely a more timely application of the above tendency could not have been more indecorous, and might have been more propitious. But there is great reason for presuming that our Cabinet had no trivial influence upon the first arrangements and the earliest measures of the Supreme Junta. If the cry of "Viva Fernando!" did not actually originate here, it was most eagerly re-echoed by our ministers; they feared perhaps that "Vive la Nation!" might be heard, if not anticipated, which would have reduced them to the aukward dilemma of either renouncing their political creed, or abandoning the cause of Spain. They thus succeeded in repressing an enthusiasm, which might have emancipated that most important peninsula; they saved their own consistency—but they placed Spain under the control of France.

R.

LORD BISHOP OF LONDON.

Mr. Examiner,—The following observations upon a recent circumstance, which took place at Fulham, may not be unacceptable to his Lordship's friends, if you will allow them a place in your paper. It has been a custom of some standing to hold a fair annually on Parson's Green, a short distance from Fulham. This has been quite a nuisance to the respectable inhabitants resident near; and wishes, nay, well-grounded hopes, were entertained, that this scene of *riot and excess* would be abolished. To be brief:—a meeting of the Magistrates, &c. was convened in the Vestry-room of Fulham; the Bishop was present, and it was unanimously determined to suppress a custom that was not secured by any charter. Notices were immediately sent to the Constables and Headboroughs, to attend and prevent the erection of booths,—and placards were posted, signifying that his Lordship *would* not allow the fair. An article also appeared in the *Times* of the same import. So far, Sir, the steps which his Lordship took were consistent and regular. —So far we must accompany him with our approbation. —Such conduct shewed a paternal regard to the present welfare of the needy part of his flock, who should not be allured, in times like these, to spend and dissipate their slender pittance. An old Roman said,

"Que non vetat peccare, cum licet, jubet."

Whether we may hazard so much upon his Lordship, I will not affirm; but this I can affirm, that shortly after, his Lordship, perhaps intimidated by the boisterous manners of the mob, had placards printed in all haste, expressing his desire not to interfere with the "*Rights and Amusements*" of the People, and insinuating that he was inveigled into "a concurrence with the Magistrates."—This was a *chef d'œuvre* of policy, worthy the noble Prelate. All the odium of the proceeding attached to the Magistrates.—They were gibbetted upon every wall, and loaded with all the imprecations of the damned; while the pliant Prelate was gratified by hearing "Long live the Bishop," resound from all the drunken vulgar of the hundred. I will not trespass upon the limits of your Paper by discussing the impropriety of encouraging Fairs; but only observe, that if the poor are already sinking with the pressure of taxes, —want of employment, &c.;—if it is true that they can hardly find victuals and the common necessaries of life;—if the work-houses are already overcharged with poor, and the inhabitants with supporting them:—if, Sir, these things are so, then I should think, with submission to his Lordship, that every, even the least, tendency to aggravate these misfortunes by dissipation and debauchery, should be discouraged.—Again, if a Bishop is the Watchman, Shepherd, Father of his Flock,—if it is in the list of his duties to regulate morals,—to encourage industrious habits,—and likewise to suppress drunkenness and rioting,—to discountenance blasphemy, swearing and idleness,—all which I apprehend to be the "*Rights* and *Amusements*" of such a Fair,—then, I think, it is to be lamented that his Lordship did not for once act consistently with himself.

A divine Teacher said, "He that is faithful in the least is faithful also in much." What conclusion must be drawn, if we change the adjective?

A Publican.

August 22nd. 1811.

WESTMINSTER ABBEY.

Mr. Examiner,—I have been in the habit for several Sundays past of attending divine service in Westminster

Abbey, and have been not a little shocked and astonished at the reprehensible and indecorous conduct of the boys who are appointed to chaunt the prayers or psalms—astonished more particularly at the pusillanimity of those under whose guidance they are placed, in not exercising their authority, so as to prevent a recurrence of such shameful behaviour (which, to be explicit, consists of making a noise, laughing, playing, &c.): by such apathy they undoubtedly participate in the culpability. Trusting that I shall find this remonstrance will not have been made in vain, and that henceforth, if the forms of worship make no impression upon these graceless urchins, something tangible, by way of chastisement (if no other mode can be found effectual), will do, I subscribe myself, your's, &c.

A Friend to Religious Decorum.

St. James's-street.

FOUNDLING HOSPITAL.

Mr. Editor,—I attended the service at the Foundling Hospital yesterday evening; and having read the letter signed *Benevolus* in your Paper of yesterday, I was induced, previous to my going into the Chapel, to inquire of a person belonging to the Hospital, the number of children there at present: he informed me about 330 or 340.

But the principal motive of this letter is to call the attention of the person or persons who have the management of the Chapel to the manner in which it is lighted, or rather not lighted up.

The service did not commence until seven o'clock; and by the time the Psalms were read, it was so dark in the galleries of the Chapel, particularly the eastern gallery, where I sat, that it was impossible to see a letter in the Prayer-Book; there being the two candles at the reading desk, and *here* and *there* a lamp lighted, and those *only* in the lower part of the Chapel

This, Sir, you will think with me, is neglect of accommodation, especially to a congregation who all contribute to the support of the Charity on their admission into the Chapel.—I am, Sir, your obedient servant, H. C.

Grenville-street, Brunswick-square, Aug. 19.

CHANGE.

Welwyn, Herts, Aug. 22.

Mr. Examiner,—Be so good as to inform *Madame* Justice, (for I certainly cannot suppose your Correspondent to be either *a Justice of the Peace*, or *a Chief Justice of the Court of King's Bench*) that being at present removed from the vicinity of Somerset-house, I am prevented the pleasure of paying a visit to the Stamp-Office, as that *good old Lady* requested I would do in your paper of Sunday last. This circumstance, you may assure her *Ladyship*, I regret exceedingly; as I should have felt considerable gratification in being convined (as *she* insinuates I should have been) of my informant's error respecting the appropriation of the small change, received by the Clerks at the Stamp-Office.—Feeling, therefore, as I do, and the impossibility of my being able at this moment to withdraw the charge contained in my late inquiry; and considering *also* the absolute necessity that such a charge should, if *false*, be immediately contradicted, I must beg of you, Mr. Examiner, to express my sincere hope, that Justice will lose no time in supplying the public with such *facts as will entirely remove all doubt and suspicion upon the subject of so important an inquiry*; and for which purpose *solely* the said inquiry was indeed originally instituted.—I remain, Mr. Examiner, your very humble servant,

Equity.

DARTMOOR DEPOT.

[from the Plymouth Chronicle.]

To the Editor of the Examiner.

Sir,—Your publication of the 28th ult. contained a letter respecting Dartmoor prison, intended to exculpate Lord Cochrane from the charge of rashness, so hastily made against him by Mr. Whitbread and others, in the House of Commons; on his stating that prison to be insalubrious, and not fit for the purposes for which it was designed. The writer advances some exaggerated inconveniences, and asserts many things utterly false. I am not disposed to advocate Ministers at the expence of truth. I am not their admirer—no spark of indignation is aroused into flame in my bosom by the impeachment of this Depot, for the consequent blame attaching to those who erected it. I would boldly support truth, and truth alone.

It is said Lord Cochrane objected to that part of Dartmoor as a Depot, because it was the most inclement in England. This is a gross mistake. Dartmoor, from being an elevated tract, 1000 or 1500 feet above the level of the sea, will naturally be colder than the lower country upon the borders of the ocean: the latter, owing to its proximity to the sea, being much warmer than any inland tract, whether elevated or not. This accounts for many of the prejudices made against it, by persons who reside within 10 or 12 miles; and who, when visiting it, feeling a considerable change, ignorantly attribute such change to the inhospitality of the climate. Lord Cochrane's misinformation can be readily accounted for, from his not having resided on the spot; but the writer in your paper, stiled *Humanitas*, who rode over the moor in a fine Autumnal day (perhaps a November one) contrasts the different sensations he experienced on Dartmoor, with the lower country: as if there was no physical cause but inclemency to occasion the difference. Surely he never can have exercised his judgment; prejudice can have been his only guide in making him reason so preposterously.—The degree of cold felt on Dartmoor, is not more than is felt on any hilly tract in the kingdom, of equal elevation, though it is often great, compared with the surrounding country. *Humanitas* asserts, that the sun is not seen for nine months in the year, and that the hills are enveloped in clouds, even on a partially cloudy day. One should have supposed Dartmoor from this description a perfect Erebus, wrapt in the shades of Stygian darkness, and clothed in mists of eternal obscurity. The fact is, that the clouds arising from the sea are interrupted in their passage over the land by these hills, and occasion showers more frequently there, than in less hilly or lower situations: between these showers the sun shines with greater splendor than on the lower country. An increased degree of moisture is, however, the natural consequence, and the principal inconvenience felt.

The snow lies on the hills longer than on the lower country, but even on them for no considerable period, compared with the eastern and northern parts of England.

Humanitas states the days of rain in Devon to be as 4½ to 1 to that of Middlesex!! Consequently, if there be three months rain in Middlesex in the year, in Devon we have fifteen months. How this computation is made I am at a loss to find; had it originated with an Irish bogtrotter, the national propensity to blunder would have accounted for it—as it stands, the author alone can solve the problem.

It is untrue that Government changes the military doing duty at the prison every two months, because of the severity of the spot. The military are changed from policy. Still no regiment, particularly of militia, can be supposed to like a duty, when the officers and men are cut off from the comforts of a populous town and neighbourhood, and sent to a station where there is no variety of scene, but one continued monotony. This is the ground of dislike the military have to the station: there has never been a complaint among them of its insalubrity. Would to God our brave armies, now in the Peninsula, could repose

as softly, as well sheltered, and as comfortably, as they might in the commodious and healthy barracks of Dartmoor.

The Socratic mode of asking questions to come at the truth, has been exemplified most ingeniously in the above letter. The author asks, "was not the number of dead in the prison the first year estimated at 1000?!!! Did not 1500 die, and were there not 3000 sick three years ago, so that all the rooms have been occupied with patients and the hospital overloaded? Did not 500 or 600 perish the year before last?" By asking this string of questions, the author affirms nothing, and consequently does not appear to take any responsibility upon himself to prove their truth; while on the public mind the mischief is the same, and the insinuation equally injurious to the honour and feeling of the country.

I am compelled, Mr. Editor, to avow, that the whole of these statements are false in every sense—are gross exaggerations—and bear in the forgery of them, marks of deliberate guilt. There have never been above 500 sick at one time, since the erection of the prison: The hospital has never been so full as to be obliged to fill all the rooms of the prison with an overplus of the sick. There have never died a hundred in one year; nor did the sixth part of the number stated, die the year before last. These assertions are facts, however unpleasant they may be deemed, and however dissimilar they may appear to the exaggerations of *Humanitas*. Many complaints have been made respecting the prison by the prisoners; who, in the melancholy confinement they are doomed to, may, oftentimes, feel impatience and irritation; when their state may be, for the state of captives, comfortable and convenient. If Dartmoor prison is allowed by *Humanitas* "to be commodious, there is plenty of room for air, an healthy stream running through the centre, and the greatest care in the medical department," what is to be said for other prisons; where there are, if we except the medical care, none of those comforts?—What is to be said of prison ships? With respect to persons being excluded from visiting the prison, it is solely from an order of the Secretary of State, and appertains to every prison of war without exception.

The ignorance of *Humanitas* is apparent, in his ascribing to the prison the diseases which have occurred at Dartmoor.—He is not aware, or has not penetration enough to discern, that a large proportion of the prisoners received at Plymouth, have arrived in a state of disease, owing to their treatment before, and on their passage to England. The prisoners received from the Spanish prison-ships, from Cadiz in particular, shamefully neglected as they had been by the Spaniards, hardly any of them bore a resemblance to human being—diseased, famished, dying in the boats e'er they could be brought on shore, with epidemic disorders of the most fatal description, generated in the holds or rather nauseous dungeons of the Spanish men of war; the seeds of which they communicated to each other, and to the prisoners here: the mortality which took place, may rather be wondered at for its smallness.

The writer of this has seen them landed from that floating vehicle of pestilence, a Spanish line of battle ship; over the sides of which, both by day and night, the melancholy sound of the dead bodies of the neglected prisoners had been heard, plunged into the water at short intervals, during their voyage to England; thus buried with their diseases and their miseries in the bosom of the ocean. Some have expired on the bench the moment they have been landed; and others have died a few hours after in the hospital, soothed in their last moments by the unremitting attention bestowed by the medical attendants to alleviate their sufferings; and by the knowledge that the treatment their surviving fellow prisoners would receive in England, gave them a chance of returning, and bearing the news of their unhappy destiny to their friends and relatives.

I trust I have convinced you, Mr. Editor, how little founded in fact the assertions of *Humanitas* are: I have combated the objections to the temperature of Dartmoor; and have displayed to the view the real causes of what mortality did occur there. It must certainly be evident to the view, that an assimilation to the climate, where matters are as I have represented them, would soon take place; for it could not operate more to the prejudice of the prisoners, than of the British inhabitants; among whom the marks of health and strength remain undiminished. There are now 7000 prisoners at Dartmoor, and scarcely a patient in the Hospital. This is truth; an incontrovertible fact; and a proof of what I have before urged respecting the deaths that have taken place. Before I conclude, I must bear testimony to the excellence of the medical department here. No British seamen are taken more care of than the French prisoners, who may be in the hospital; and the moment they arrive, they are stripped of their rags, cleansed in the bath from the vermin that may infest them; and the most unremitting assiduity, aided by first-rate abilities and practice, directed with unceasing attention to the diseased and sickly—it is not the attention of medical practice in common, but the labour of transcendant genius, that owns not the cold word duty, but spontaneously directs its energies to the accomplishment of its object, with the views of benevolence and the feelings of sympathy.

Such is the state of the Plymouth depot, of which Dartmoor is a branch, in which 14,000 prisoners are comprehended, and in which every abuse is remedied the moment the Transport Board are made acquainted with it. I have heard it is the intention to rebuild Mill Prison, which is much out of repair; nothing more is wanting to render the state of the prisoners here, such as it reasonably ought to be; and, in point of comfort, superior to that of any other depot in the kingdom.

Plymouth, August 2, 1811. VERITAS.

ACCIDENTS, OFFENCES, &c.

A fire broke out on Wednesday evening, about eight o'clock, in the hardware warehouse belonging to Mr. Dobson, corner of Finsbury-street, Chiswell-street. The flames were so rapid, that they soon extended to the adjoining building. There was a want of water at first, so that the engines could not begin playing, by which the fire got to a great head, and, in a short time, the premises, with the stock in trade, were consumed. A shocking accident occured to a Mr. Corry, a hair-dresser, in the next house, who had his thigh broken by some furniture, which was thrown out of the window, and which knocked him down; he was carried to a surgeon near the spot, who happily succeeded in setting it.

A Mr. M. of Manchester, on Monday night, put an end to his existence, by a pistol, at Anderton's Coffee-house, in Fleet-street. It is stated, that he had come up to London in consequence of commercial embarrasments—had effected an advantageous arrangement with his creditors, and was driven to the commission of suicide by a refusal in the City to ratify the arrangement. Mr. M. has left a wife, but happily no children.

On Saturday week, Mr. T. Astill, who has been for many years head gamekeeper to Earl Spencer, at Wimbledon Park, arrived at his own house speechless, and was found to have his scull dreadfully fractured, apparently by a bullet from a horse-pistol, which had perforated his hat in two places; he was also much struck about the thighs by the hilt of a sword or cutlass. He had been seen not long before by some men, who were mowing in Wandsworth fields, to follow and overtake a man in a dark jacket, who had just been shooting and taking away some game, and they were observed to walk together towards the park pailing, not above 500 or 600 yards from his residence.—A labourer, named *Wm. Holt*, has been taken up on suspicion of having committed the outrage. He was carried before the wounded man, to be identified;—the gamekeeper, not being able to speak, made signs that he was the man who wounded him.

DEATHS.

Lately, at Worcester, Sarah Smith, aged 108.

On the 18th instant, Miss Cordelia Boore, youngest daughter of Mr. Thomas Boore, at Lewes, Sussex, in the 21st year of her age.

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